

County Court records, 1793 – 1974 (bulk 1847 – 1942)

Ontario County Records and Archives Center

Overview of the Records:

Creator:

Ontario County Court Clerk

Extent:

22 Volumes, 6 Indexes, 11.23 cubic feet

Arrangement:

The volumes are arranged chronologically. The boxed records are scattered, but loosely arranged by series, then chronologically.

Language:

Materials are in English.

Finding Aid by:

Marjorie Prak, August 2015

Use of Records

Access Restrictions:

All of the public records of Ontario County are available for the use of the public. However, there may be restrictions provided by various statutes.

Available Alternate Formats:

No other form exists.

Administrative History:

The County Court was created by the Constitution of 1846. At this time, the civil case jurisdiction of the Court of Common Pleas was transferred to the County Courts as of the first Monday of July 1847. The Constitution of 1894 transferred the criminal case jurisdiction, previously held by the Court of Sessions to the County Courts. For varying periods during the later nineteenth century certain city courts had jurisdiction over felony cases. Records of the County court are usually maintained by the county clerk, though in a few counties the court retains its recent criminal files.

Scope and Content Note:

The handwritten minutes Volumes contain the cases presented during the County Court terms. Numerous volumes of rough minutes are also included with this series. At the beginning of each term, the name of the court, venue, date, and names of the justices presiding are listed. Each case lists the names of the defendant(s), plaintiff(s), and attorney(s), as well as any witnesses and jurors. Information regarding the charges, the defendants' plea, and the sentencing may also be present.

Some cases include the defendant's biographical information, including his/her age, location of birth, town of residence, occupation, religion, marriage status, citizenship, level of education, parents names, and in/temperance.

Indexes exist for Volumes 13 through 19. Indexes 18 and 19 are provided at the beginning of those volumes; all other indexes are separate volumes. The entries are organized by first letter of the defendants' and plaintiffs' last names, then by year. They provide the page number of the corresponding Volume where the case details can be located. An unnumbered index is also included with this series for the period of 1796 through 1864, organized by the first letter of the guarantee's last name, but it is uncertain to what volume this index directs.

Various records pertaining to the proceedings and actions of the court are scattered through various boxes. Please consult the Detailed Description for further information.

Detailed Description:

Box - Folder	Location	Extent / Contents	Dates
<i>Minutes</i>		<i>7 volumes</i>	
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 13	Aug. 1847 - Jan. 1853
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 14	Jan. 1853 - Dec. 1872
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 15	Jan. 1873 - Jun. 1890
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 16	Jun. 1890 - Dec. 1906
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 17	Jan. 1907 - Jun. 1919
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 18	Nov. 1919 - Jun. 1931
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 19	Jun. 1931 - Dec. 1942
<i>Indexes</i>		<i>5 indexes</i>	
	Shelved volume	Index 13	1847 - 1853
	Shelved volume	Index 14	1853 - 1872
	Shelved volume	Index 15	1887 - 1889
	Shelved volume	Index 16	1890 - 1906
	Shelved volume	Index 17	1911 - 1919
<i>Rough Minutes</i>		<i>13 volumes</i>	
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Aug. 1847 - Jan. 1850
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Jan. 1850 - Jul. 1852
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	July 1852 - Oct. 1855
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Mar. 1888 - Jul. 1904
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Nov. 1904 - Dec. 1910
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Dec. 1910 - Jul. 1917
	Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Jun. 1922 - Nov. 1929

Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1930 - Oct. 1930
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Jan. 1951 - Jul. 1953
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1952 - Feb. 1954
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1954 - May 1956
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Mar. 1959 - Feb. 1963
Shelved volume	Special Term Rough Minutes	Oct. 1847 - Apr. 1848

Other records

2 volumes, 1 index, 11.23 cubic feet

	Shelved volume	Rule Index	Index 1796 – 1864
	Shelved volume	Testimony	Sept. 1852 - Jun. 1862
	Shelved volume	Appeal Filings	undated
14022	AM01-226	0.02 cubic feet / Minutes	1831
18719	AM21-019	0.25 cubic feet	Undated
19181	AM21-020	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1877 – 1886
19083	AM21-033	0.25 cubic feet	1811 - 1813, 1821 - 1843
19364	AM21-057	1.00 cubic feet	1939
20539	AM21-058	0.33 cubic feet	Undated
18730	AM21-059	0.34 cubic feet	circa 1818 – 1878
18835*	AM21-065	1.00 cubic feet	
21529	AM21-069	0.33 cubic feet	Undated
19212	AM21-071	0.33 cubic feet	1974
18980*	AM21-077	1.00 cubic feet	1935
19204	AM21-078	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1872 – 1889
19215	AM21-085	0.25 cubic feet	circa 1815 – 1925
19262	AM21-097	0.10 cubic feet	1853 - 1868
21531	AM21-110	0.16 cubic feet	1900 - 1953
19390	AM21-113	1.00 cubic feet	Undated
19393	AM21-114	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1856 – 1873
19394	AM21-115	1.00 cubic feet	circa 1915
19395	AM21-123	0.02 cubic feet	1867
19415	AM21-127	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1793 – 1859
19814	AM21-143	1.00 cubic feet	1872 – 1900
20001	AM21-177	0.25	1896 - 1900
19975	AM21-178	0.07 cubic feet	1820, 1827, 1834, 1868, 1876, 1886
19823	AM24-117	0.34 cubic feet	Undated
29013*	AR09-021	1.00 cubic feet	
TBD	Box on Table	0.04 cubic feet (0.01 cubic feet Bench Warrants & 0.03 cubic feet Miscellaneous records)	1886, n.d.

* indicates sorted boxes